

Dear student,

We hope you are well and that the exam season has started well for you. Please remember that Queen Mary has a range of support to help you with your studies and any other concerns: have a look at qmul.ac.uk/coronavirus, our [wellbeing pages](#) and [information on our library services](#), or contact your School or Institute. Please also take advantage of all the activities our Students' Union are running as part of this year's [Study Well](#) campaign.

Easing lockdown and keeping our campuses safe

On Sunday the government gave the first indications of how the UK will come out of lockdown. We have been preparing for this and are now looking at the implications of the announcement for Queen Mary. Of course, our campuses have never closed: we still have a number of students living with us and we are running the on-campus services needed to support them, and some of our research laboratories have remained open and running. We are now actively looking at how we can open up more services, including more research labs and also those services that I know our students would very much like to access, such as PC labs and study space. The safety of our communities – students and staff – must come first as we make our plans, and we will only reopen spaces that we know we can operate safely. We will be in touch again shortly with further information.

Preparing for the new academic year

Our 2020-21 academic year begins on 14 September ([visit our website](#) for all dates). We very much hope to be able to welcome you back to our campuses, in person, for the beginning of Semester 1. We want you to rest assured however that whatever happens – whether you are able to travel safely to our campuses or not – we will ensure you will be able to fully access your education in September. None of us knows at the moment how much freedom of travel there will be come September, within the UK or between countries, so we are preparing for all scenarios.

Support over the summer

Moving so quickly to learning remotely has been challenging for all of us. We want to ensure that none of our students has missed any aspect of their educational development, and that you feel fully prepared for next year. To that end, we are exploring how we can support you over the summer. We are working closely with the Students' Union on this area, to ensure the offer we develop is co-created and student-centred. Anything we offer will not interrupt any plans you have made for the summer – it will be there as a support, rather than anything more formal. We will be in touch with further details shortly.

Assessment

Finally, we have become aware of an increase in offers to students to help them unfairly with their assessments. While we have made some changes to assessments in response to lockdown, we have not changed our approach to [assessment offences](#). Please ensure you undertake your assessments as required and with integrity.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact our [student enquiry centre](#).

Please stay safe and look after yourself.

Best wishes,

Colin and Annika

Professor Colin Bailey

President and Principal
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